

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY.

The oldest charitable organization in existence in this city is the St. Vincent de Paul Conference. In 1833 the society was organized by eight young men in Paris, France. It spread rapidly and a council was formed in New York and a branch in St. Louis. The members in this city soon increased and the extent of the conference became so large that it was found necessary to form a council here. So that the Future Great is now one of those cities in the Union where the upper councils of the order exist. The report up of the past winter's work has not yet been made but the total amount expended so far is over, \$14,000. The following figures obtained from members of the Upper Council will give a good idea of the amount of work accomplished:

St. Vincent's Parish Conference numbers forty-eight members with twelve families of an average of four persons on the lists. Distributions, \$325.

St. Bridget's has sixty-five members; 850 reliefs granted; forty-four families on relief lists, including 116 children. Total expenses of reliefs, burials, clothing, food, etc., \$800 per annum.

St. Vincent's (German conference), forty members, fifteen visiting members, 329 relief granted, \$369 expended.

St. Mary's Parish numbers 30 members, nearly all of whom are visiting members; their expenses for relieving the poor, \$180.

St. Francis Xavier's, 25 members; 40 families relieved, including 120 persons. Total expenditures, \$1,200.

St. Nicholas' Conference, 35 members; 10 members visiting the poor. Thirty-five poor children attending school for which the conference pays tuition. Expenses for provisions, \$225.

St. Michael's Parish Conference has a membership of 20, with 22 poor families, including 40 children on the relief lists.

The Annunciation has a membership of 30, with 11 families of pensioners, nearly all of whom have been assisted almost weekly. The expenses of this conference are about \$250.

St. Joseph's Parish is the largest in the city, having 100 members. In this district 480 reliefs have been granted of an average of 9 families a week. Their expenses for medicine, provisions, clothing and traveling expenses amount to over \$650.

St. Liborius' Parish Conference has 40 members; granted over 450 reliefs, sending 6 children to school.

All the above-named conferences are under the direction of the Upper Council of the society of St. Vincent de Paul, of St. Louis. This is composed of the following gentlemen: Jos. O'Neil, R. T. Barry, John Ring, John Armand, M. H. Phelan and John Barry. The officers are as follows: Louis Fusz, president; John Armand, vice-president; J. C. Barry, second vice-president; R. F. Barry, treasurer. The office of secretary was filled by Mr. John Ring, who has resigned. Its organization is much similar to that of the Provident Association. The city is divided into districts for which collectors are appointed. The real work of relieving the distressed is done by the members of the various conferences. No distinction whatever is made among the distressed, and in addition to the corporal aid the members are under instructions to assist the poor in attending to their spiritual welfare as far as possible, and in consistence with the laws of the organization which prohibits all direct interference with religious beliefs. The upper council has full charge of all matters and the management of all funds, so that the surplus in one conference is taken to supply the deficit in another. In this way the conference is ever ready to furnish the necessities of life, or medical attendance, if required. It co-operates with the Provident Association, and so the two stand the bulk of the work of aiding the worthy distressed.

eight poor families on the list as applying for relief. The expenses have not exceeded \$50.

St. Patrick's is one of the largest in the city, and one in which the heaviest demands are made for assistance. It has twenty-five members. They relieved twenty families since the beginning of winter, and many more were occasionally afforded aid when the funds of the society permitted it. The expenses for the four months of winter have been \$470. Work is procured for all females able and willing to support themselves by their own exertions. The children of the beneficiaries attend the free schools under the direction of the Christian Brothers.

The parish of the Holy Trinity has a branch society of thirty-five members. During the winter the society expended \$100 independent of that paid for the education of the poor children of the parish.

Sts. Mary's and Joseph's branch of Carondelet has twelve members who have been exceptionally active and performed wonders in the work of relief in South St. Louis. They have half a hundred families to take care of, but by judicious and careful management they succeeded in doing the work with about \$325 during such long winters as the past.

St. Elizabeth's, the colored parish, has twenty members, and during the winter expended nearly \$200 in assisting the poor of the parish.

St. Lawrence O'Toole's Conference at the last general meeting made no report. They have a membership of about twenty-five, and the discharge of the duties of these members in this large parish has proven an extensive work.

St. John Nepomuk's Conference has sixty-two members. The children are educated at the expense of the conference. The conference each winter grants relief to nearly 400 persons, and their expenses are \$350.

Saints Peter and Paul's Society has 51 members; granted nearly 900 reliefs and expending during the winter over \$1,000.

St. Theresa's during the winter has had a membership of 47. Several were dropped from the roll for non-attendance. This parish during the winter has given out 500 bushels of coal and 25 sacks of flour, besides meal, clothing, etc. Its expenses have exceeded \$250.

St. John's Conference has relieved forty families of 150 persons. Its expenditures, including 1,000 bushels of coal and \$350 worth of provisions, have been nearly \$500.

St. Malachi's Society of St. Vincent de Paul has thirty members on the roll and but only